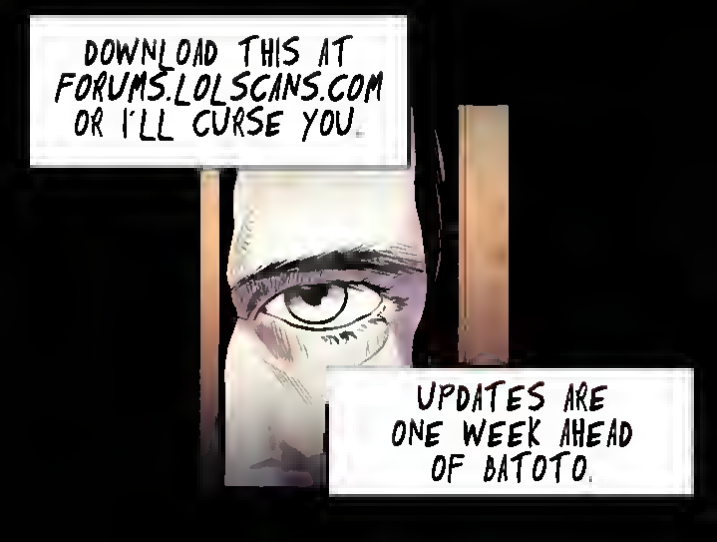
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TENJIN

STORY BY
KOMORI YOICHI

ART BY
SUGIE TSUBASA

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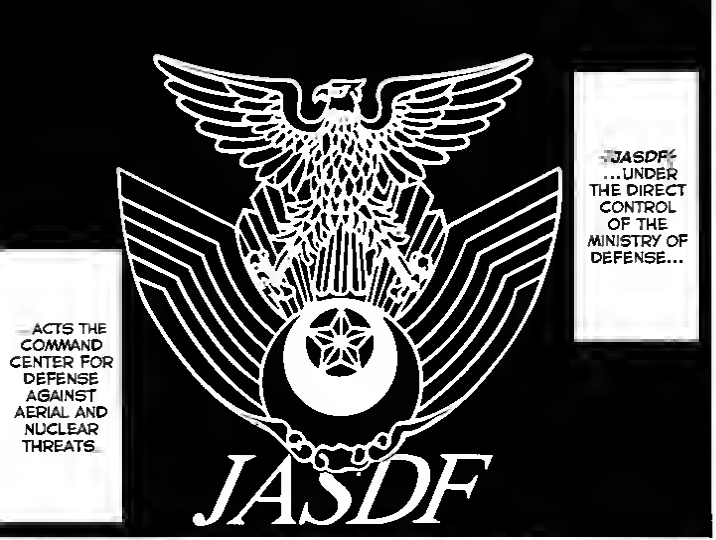
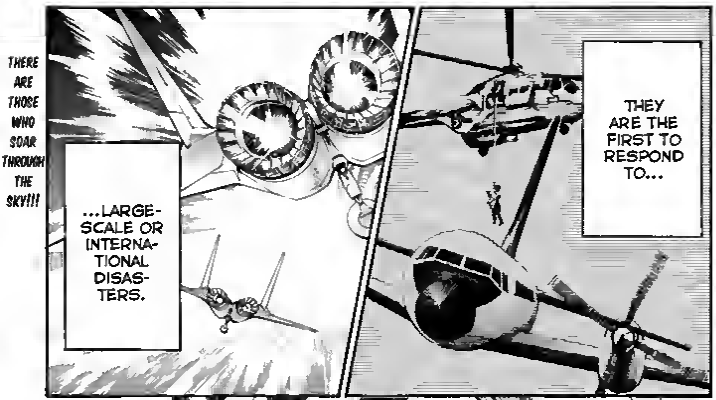
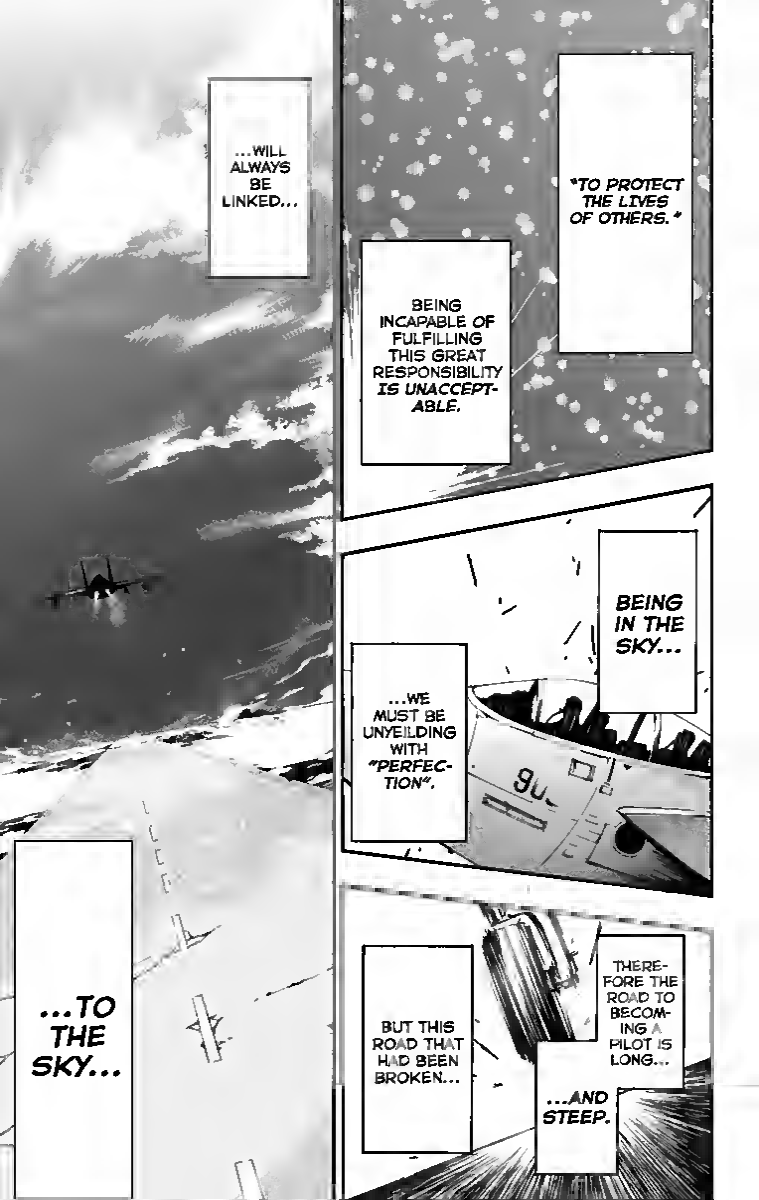

JASDF
...UNDER THE DIRECT CONTROL OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE...
...ACTS THE COMMAND CENTER FOR DEFENSE AGAINST AERIAL AND NUCLEAR THREATS.
JASDF

NEW SERIES CH2 WITH 27 FULL SIZE PAGES (TENJIN)



THAT LOOK IS THE SAME AS THE ONE BEFORE...!
...WHAT IT MEANS TO BELONG TO THE FLIGHT GROUP.
AND THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A PILOT!
天神
-TENJIN-
ORIGINAL STORY: KOMORI YOUICHI
ARRANGEMENT: TAOKA MUNEAKI
ARTWORK: TASUKU SUGIE
CHAPTER 2: WE, FLIGHTLESS BIRDS


...WILL ALWAYS BE LINKED...
"TO PROTECT THE LIVES OF OTHERS."
BEING INCAPABLE OF FULFILLING THIS GREAT RESPONSIBILITY IS UNACCEPTABLE.
BEING IN THE SKY...
...WE MUST BE UNYEILDING WITH "PERFECTION".
...TO THE SKY...
BUT THIS ROAD THAT HAD BEEN BROKEN...
THEREFORE THE ROAD TO BECOMING A PILOT IS LONG...
...AND STEEP.

FWOOSH
HOUFU AIRBASE
THE JADSF OFFER PILOT-TRAINING COURSES ACROSS THE COUNTRY.
THESE SERVE AS THE *NEST BOXES*, WHERE THE NEXT CLUTCH OF FLIGHT CADETS EMERGE FROM.
ALRIGHT!

ISN'T THAT RIKU?
!
YOU'RE LATE.
YO~
3RD CLASS PETTY OFFICER (COLLEGE GRADUATE)
MURATA KOUJIROU
IT'S ONLY THE FIRST DAY... IS LATENESS REALLY A HABIT OF YOURS?
3RD CLASS PETTY OFFICER (COLLEGE GRADUATE)
OOYASU NAO
HEYYY NAO! AND KOJIROU!
YOU GUYS REALLY HELPED ME OUT WITH MY ENGINEERING LESSONS 2 YEARS AGO!!!

AWE-SOME! YOU GUYS ALSO DECIDED TO DO THE FLIGHT COURSE TOO!!!
YOU'RE TOO LOUD!
YOU ALWAYS SOUND LIKE A LITTLE KID SCREAMING, CRYING OUT LIKE A GOAT.
WHAT'S WRONG, NAO?

...IT'S NOT LIKE I CALLED YOU,
DIANE...
HISS

BUT... I GUESS I'M STUCK WITH YOU GUYS, HUH?
WAI— I GIVE UP! I GIVE UP!
WHY WOULD YOU WANT THAT NICKNAME TO COME UP AGAIN?!
THOUGHT I ALREADY TOLD YOU NOT TO CALL ME BY THAT NICKNAME?!
WHY WOULD YOU CALL ME THAT NOW?!

OH! THEY'RE COMING!!!
AH...
IT'S IN THE AIR.
Wahoo!
DUH.
YOU THINK I'M SOME IDIOT?!
IF ANYTHING, I GUARANTEE I'VE AT LEAST DRILLED THE AIRPORT INFORMATION INTO KOUJIROU!
HMPH TONE IT DOWN, WILL YA?
OOF
THEY HAVEN'T TAKEN AWAY YOUR SCHOLARSHIP, RIGHT?
YUP, BUT THIS IS WHERE IT STARTS TO GET HARD
IF YOU GET EVEN ONE UNSATISFACTORY MARK IN THE FLIGHT COURSE...
...YOUR WINGMARK.
YOU'D BETTER FORGET ABOUT GETTING..

NOT SURE IF WE'RE GONNA GET ALONG THOUGH...
UNIVERSITY GRADUATES?
ALSO, CHARLIE GROUP IS GOING TO INCLUDE AVIATION AND UNIVERSITY GRADS.

※ The National Defence academy is a machine used to train the Next Generation of Executive Officers for the Self Defence Forces.

A GROUP OF ELITES OR SO I'VE HEARD
ALPHA AND BRAVO, THEY'RE COLLECTIVELY KNOWN AS THE DEFENSE FORCE.
GROUND TROOPS SOLDIERS.
THEY'VE BEEN IN UNIVERSITY FOR FOUR YEARS

...BRING IT.
FLYING IN THE SKY IS WHAT I WANT.
LOOK INTO MY EYES...
NOTHING YOU DO OR SAY NOW WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE
...I'VE DECIDED.
...AND YOU'LL SEE HOW DETERMINED I AM.
ARE YOU GOING TO TALK ABOUT YOUR SKY-GOD AGAIN?
WELL, IT'S GOING TO BE THE SAME FOR THE REST OF US LET'S GET GOING.
Ehh... Th-that's...

STU-
DENT
LIFE...
FLIGHT PREPARA-
TION FOR
THE 51ST
GENERATION
FLIGHT
GROUP,
STAND AT
ATTENTION.
YES,
SIR!
THIS WILL BE
THE DAY I
WILL ALWAYS
REMEMBER.
THAT'S
RIGHT...
TODAY, IT
BEGINS...
SIR!
RE-
PORT
I WAS...
FORMALLY
EDUCATED
WITH... THE
AVIATION
BELIRO...
UMM...

ICHIROU HASEDE, 4TH RECRUIT. I WAS SQUAD LEADER OF GROUP THREE...
FIFTH RECRUIT!
AL-RIGHT I'M UP NEXT!
AH... UHM... SORRY... I WAS TRAINED ON CIVILIAN AIRLINES.
THAT'S ENOUGH FOR NOW, NEXT!
IT'S THE DATE OF MY DE-PAR-TURE!
LIKE-WISE... 3RD CLASS PETTY OFFICER
SHA-KAGA-MI! ... RIKU!!!
SNAP
!!?
GRO... GROUP...
NEXT!
NEXT GUY FUMBLED TOO RECRUITS ARE ALWAYS SO TENSE...
FLIGHT COMMAND BRIEFING ROOM
FUFUFU I ALMOST BURST LIKE A BALLOON, RIKU!
THAT'S YOUR INITAL INTRO-DUCTION!
SHUT UP!
I'M SORRY EVERY ONE!

I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
THE IDIOT NEXT TO YOU COULDN'T EVEN PRONOUNCE HIS OWN NAME.
3RD CLASS PETTY OFFICER (COLLEGE GRADUATE) SASAKI TAKAYUKI
What a weak performance... UGH!!!
I practiced my introduction to death... and I still screwed it up!
3RD CLASS PETTY OFFICER (COLLEGE GRADUATE) HASEBE ICHIROU

THEN...
GUESS YOU'RE ALSO IN GROUP C...
HEY...
YOU TALKING ABOUT ME?

...GROUP "CHARLIE," HUH...
FROM THIS DAY ON, THE FIVE OF US WILL BE IN...

YE YEAH, LIKEWISE.
HMM? GROUP CHARLIE, HUH...
O, HASEBE, YOU MIGHT NOT WANT TO DEAL WITH THESE GUYS.
LOOKS LIKE ALL OF US WHO ARE AVIATION STU-DENTS...
WILL BELONG TO THE SAME GROUP FROM NOW ON NICE TO MEET YOU.
BOTH HASEBE AND I ARE OLDER, AND WE BOTH CAME FROM A BETTER EDUCATIONAL BACK-GROUND THAN YOU.
WHY WOULD THEY GROUP US WITH LOW CLASS UNDER ACHIEV-ERS?
YOU'RE WRO...
SASAKI-KUN.
...
WHAT WAS THAT?

HAH
WHY DID YOU PICK AVIATION SCHOOL WHEN YOU GOT INTO THE DEFENSE FORCE?
YOU'VE SPENT TWO LONG YEARS THERE AND YOU'RE RANK 5. THIS IS A BIT ODD.
AND ALSO, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO BECOME A GENERAL IN THE AVIATION FORCE.
YOU'LL START AND FINISH BELOW US.
I'M SHOCKED THAT YOU'VE PICKED AVIATION SCHOOL EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE WELL-AWARE OF ALL THIS.

NAO!
WHAT IS IT, RIKU?
STOP THIS. WE DON'T WANT TO GET EXPELLED ON THE FIRST DAY, DO WE?

NAO... IS THIS HOW A PILOT SHOULD CONDUCT HERSELF?
STOP?
...
I UNDERSTAND
FINE, THIS ASSHOLE GETS THAT ONE SHOT FOR FREE.
OH YOU'RE UNRESPONSIVE MAYBE YOUR AREA OF EXPERTISE IS ON BEING A SILENT WOMAN?
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I WOULD EVER NEED COLLEAGUES LIKE YOU?
FAMILY?! HAH!
HEY, COME ON, GUYS! WE'RE A FAMILY. WE SHOULDN'T START FIGHTING ON THE FIRST DAY
YOU!

AH... THIS IS BAD... NAO IS GOING TO POUNCE ON THAT GUY.
IT'S NO GOOD... IN THE PAST, HER SHORT TEMPER HAS GOTTEN HER INTO SO MANY FIGHTS WITH PEOPLE WHO HAVE INSULTED HER LIKE THIS.
AND AT THAT TIME, SHE HURT THEM SO BADLY...!
SHE WAS LET OFF WITH A WARNING, BUT WOULD HAVE BEEN DISCHARGED IF SHE HAD DONE IT AGAIN...
IT'S BAD... WHAT WOULD HAPPEN...
YOU CAN USUALLY STOP HER ONCE... BUT AFTER THAT SHE GOES BALLISTIC... BUT... SOMEHOW...
I HAVE TO...

I'M SORRY...
...SASAKI-SAN!!!

WHAT A FAST MANEU-VER
LIKE A FIGHTER JET,
TO PUNCH HIM FROM ALL THE WAY OVER THERE.
I'M SORRY, SASAKI-SAN!!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING!!!
...
DAMN ... YOU ...
YOU'RE APOLO-GIZING AFTER YOU HIT HIM YOUR-SELF?
NO MAYBE IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE DONE SOMETHING LIKE THAT
YEAH?
OH...
I GOT ANGRY, I SUPPOSE...

!!?
WHAT HAP-PENED HERE?!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING !!
HAVE YOU GUYS FINISHED READING THE BASE GUIDE-LINES?
THE BAR-RACKS SHOULD ALL BE READY BY NOW
WHEN-EVER THERE IS A SITUA-TION LIKE THIS
...BOTH PARTIES RE HELD RESPON-SIBLE.
HERE, YOU WILL BOTH BE DISCI-PLINED FOR DISRUPTING ORDER...
...AND SERVE COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY. THE PUNISHMENT WILL BE SERVED WITH JOINT LIABILITY.

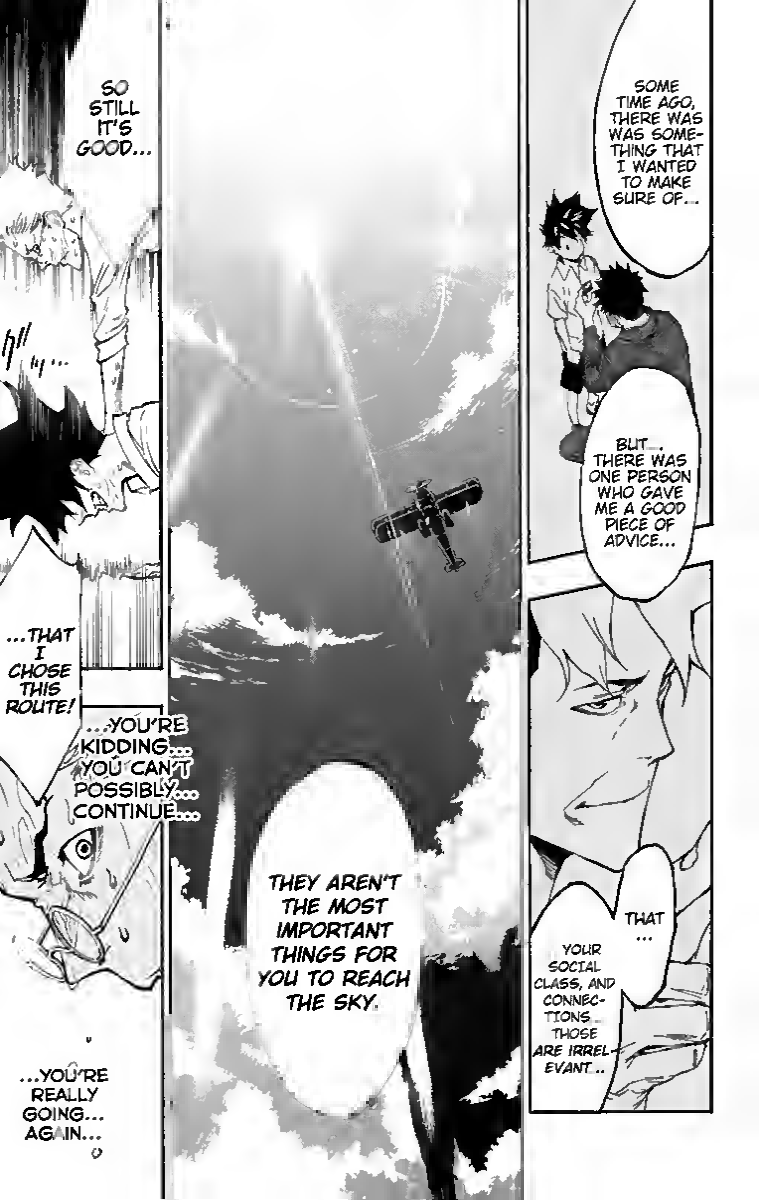
YOU WILL PERFORM 500 PUSHUPS.
FIVE HUNDRED
11?
!!?
FIVE HUNDRED, YOU UNDERSTAND?
HEY...
THERE WILL BE MORE IF YOU DON'T START IN THE NEXT 3 SECONDS.
WHEN I GIVE AN ORDER, PERFORM IT IMMEDIATELY.
DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO JOIN THE SELF-DEFENSE FORCES?
HSK
...OR DO YOU WANT TO GO HOME?
N... NO!

SASAKI,
YOUR ARMS NEED TO BE FULLY EXTENDED.
TWE-NTY SIX..
ONE HUN-DRED
... TWENTY FIVE ...
ONE.. HUN-DRED ...
THIS IS THE SELF-DEFENSE FORCES' FLIGHT TR_INING... BUT OUR TRAINING IS ON THE GROUND.
IS IT... EVEN POSSIBLE... TO RE_CH 500...?
OTHERWISE, THOSE DO NOT COUNT.
...ONCE WE GET PAST THIS...
THE REAL TRAINING BEGINS...
ARGH ...
ONE HUN-DRED AND TWENTY ...
... SEVEN.
...

...
!
...HOW MUCH LONGER WILL HE HOLD OUT FOR?
SHIT... SAKAGAMI...
THE FACT THAT THEY CAN EVEN DO MORE THAN 100 OF THOSE THAI STYLE PUSHUPS IT'S AMAZ-ING

SASAKI SO YOU THINK WE'RE NOT GOOD ENOUGH FOR THIS COURSE, HUH?
I'M... STILL... HERE...
HEHE... SASAKI-SAN...

...I'LL MAKE SURE I'LL REACH THE SKY.
...IS THE FASTEST ROUTE...
BUT IF THIS

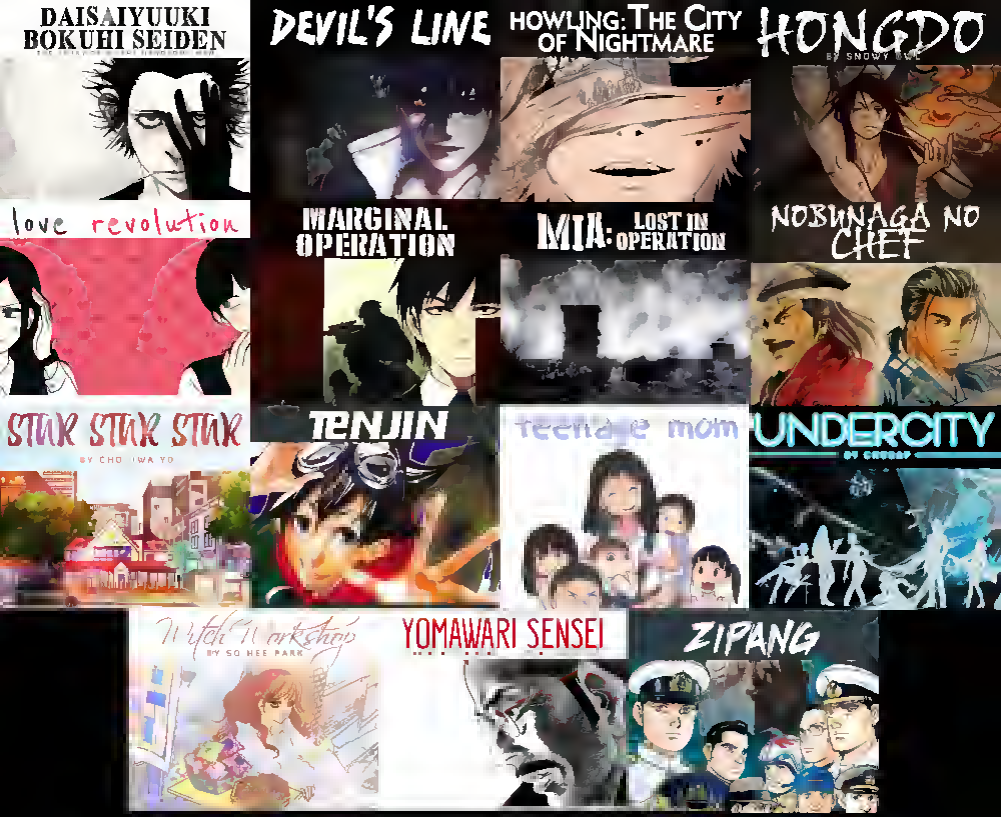

SOME TIME AGO, THERE WAS WAS SOMETHING THAT I WANTED TO MAKE SURE OF...
BUT... THERE WAS ONE PERSON WHO GAVE ME A GOOD PIECE OF ADVICE...
THAT...
YOUR SOCIAL CLASS, AND CONNECTIONS... THOSE ARE IRRELEVANT..
THEY AREN'T THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS FOR YOU TO REACH THE SKY.
SO STILL IT'S GOOD...
...YOU'RE KIDDING... YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY... CONTINUE...
...THAT I CHOSE THIS ROUTE!
...YOU'RE REALLY GOING... AGAIN...

ONE HUN-DRED TWENTY EIGHT!!!
I WILL JUMP INTO THAT FREEDOM!!!
LLLWAAAAAAAAAAAA
...RRK...
...OOH...
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT HAPPENS NOW.
IT HAS ALREADY BEGUN.
I WILL SOAR...
...INTO THE SKY.

OOH... SAKA-GAMI...
YOU'RE STUBBORN YOU'VE DEFINITELY GOT GUTS.
QUITE THE SHOW-OFF, AREN'T YOU?
SHIT
YES,
ONLY 372...
MORE TO GO ...!!!
HAHAHA ALRIGHT, THAT'S ENOUGH.
STAND UP
SAKAGAMI FOR EXAMPLE, HAVE YOU SEEN MANY STUDENTS LIKE THAT BEFORE?
HE COULD BE A REAL PROBLEM FOR US. HE DID BEAT UP A TEAM-MATE.
NO... PERHAPS IT'S THE OPPOSITE.

HE MUST'VE THOUGHT THAT IT SEEMED APPROPRIATE...
...DURING THAT TIME AND PLACE.
HE JUDGED THE SITUATION AND DECIDED TO COME TO A RESOLUTION IN *AS LITTLE TIME AS POSSIBLE*.
HE DOESN'T SEEM LIKE THE TYPE TO GO AROUND HITTING PEOPLE.
A FLASHBACK OF THAT EVENT...
...JUST LIKE WHAT *THAT PERSON* DID...
"SAKAGAMI" ...
IT'S JUST LIKE THAT DAY...
HE CERTAINLY IS...
...JUST LIKE HIM.

-TENJIN-



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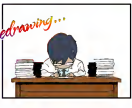

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